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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/761,594	01/16/2001	Hans-Jurgen Hacke	GR 98 P 4137 P	5815
7590	03/10/2004		EXAMINER	
LERNER AND GREENBERG, P.A.			HARAN, JOHN T	
POST OFFICE BOX 2480			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
HOLLYWOOD, FL 33022-2480			1733	

DATE MAILED: 03/10/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/761,594	HACKE ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	John T. Haran	1733	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION:

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 January 2004.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-5, 13-17 and 19-24 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) 11, 12 and 18 is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. The amendment and response filed on 1/29/04 has overcome the rejection of the claims as being indefinite under 35 USC 112, 2nd paragraph and the rejection is therefore withdrawn.
2. The declaration filed on 1/29/04 under 37 CFR 1.131 is sufficient to overcome the Farnsworth (U.S. Patent 6,369,600) reference.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-5 and 13-17 and 19-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Akagawa et al (EP 734,059) in view of Akram et al (U.S. Patent 6,107,109) and IBM Technical Bulletin, "Solder Plated Resin Ball" pages 463-464.

Akagawa et al are directed to a chip sized semiconductor device and a process for making it comprising providing chips (32), placing electrical connection pads on the chip (36), applying a first insulating layer (38) such that the electrical connection pads are left partially uncovered, producing interconnects (40) on the first insulating film leading from the electrical

connection pads (36) to a base region (43) of external connection elements; applying a second insulating layer (42) on the interconnects and the first insulating layer that is thicker than the first insulating layer; forming openings (44) in the second insulation layer above the base regions; and placing solder balls (46) in the openings and attaching them to the base regions. Akagawa et al are silent towards the balls being plastic balls having a metallic coating.

It is well known and conventional in the semiconductor art to use plastic balls having a metallic coating and an outer solder coating in place of pure solder balls because the plastic is more reliable to withstand thermal stress, as shown for example in IBM Technical Bulletin, "Solder Plated Resin Ball" page 463. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the resin ball of the IBM Technical Bulletin in the method and product of Akagawa et al in order to increase resistance to thermal stress.

Akagawa et al are also silent towards bonding the balls to the base region by placing a conductive material in the opening and attaching the ball to the connection pads via the conductive material. Akagawa et al teach bonding the solder ball to the base region through a reflow process (Column 9, line 3). It is well known and conventional to use conductive material, such as conductive adhesive, to attach balls to a surface in place of a reflow process, as shown for example in Akram et al (Column 7, lines 43-45). The two are alternative expedients and it would have been obvious to use either and only the expected results would be achieved. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in

the art at the time the invention was made to place conductive material in the opening and attach a resin ball coated with metal to the base region via the conductive material in the method and product of the Akagawa et al.

Regarding claims 1 and 3, it is noted that the claims do not actually require that the semiconductor component be soldered onto a printed circuit board and have the desired level of comparatively good mechanical decoupling. The claims require that the semiconductor component be capable of being soldered to a printed circuit board and that there will be a mechanical decoupling upon soldering to the printed circuit board. One skilled in the art would have readily appreciated that the semiconductor component obtained from the method of Akagawa et al, as modified above, is capable of being soldered to a printed circuit board, in light of the fact that the balls have an outer layer of solder. The product of Akagawa et al, as modified above, has the various claimed properties for the second insulating layer, conductive material, and the small balls and whether specifically selected for achieving mechanical decoupling or not, one skilled in the art would have readily appreciated that only the expected results would be achieved upon soldering the component to a printed circuit board, i.e. that there will be the desired level of comparatively good mechanical decoupling.

Regarding claims 2, 17, and 23-24, one skilled in the art would have readily appreciated that the relative thickness of the insulation layers depends upon a variety of factors and that the second insulation layer needs to be sufficiently thick to provide openings of adequate size to fill with conductive material to bond the balls to the chip. One skilled in the art would have readily

appreciated that the thickness of the second insulation layer in comparison with the first insulation layer is within the purview of one skilled in the art.

Regarding claim 4, it is well known and conventional to using a doctor blade for introducing conductive adhesive into openings. It would have been obvious to use conventional means for introducing the adhesive into the openings in the method of Akagawa et al, as modified above.

Regarding claim 5, Akagawa et al teach forming the chips on a wafer and dicing the wafer after the assembly process is complete (Column 9, lines 48-57).

Regarding claims 13 and 19, Akram et al teach using conductive adhesive and curing it.

Regarding claims 14-15 and 20-21, completely metal balls and metallized plastic balls are both well known and conventional and it would have been obvious to use either.

Regarding claims 16 and 22, one skilled in the art would have readily appreciated that the opening in the second insulation layer of Akagawa et al is circular in shape to accommodate the ball and that adhesive placed in the opening would assume a cylindrical shape. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to place conductive adhesive in the opening and thereby assume a cylindrical shape in the method and product of the Akagawa et al.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments filed 1/29/04 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive with regard to the obviousness rejection of the claims.

The Farnworth reference has been removed as a result of the CFR 1.131 Declaration swearing behind it. However the Farnworth reference was only cited as an example that it is well known and conventional to use conductive material, such as conductive adhesive, to attach balls to a surface in place of a reflow process. Additionally Akram was also cited as an example of this well known and conventional teaching. Therefore, removing Farnworth from the obviousness rejection does not change the rejection (it is not a new grounds of rejection) because Akram was (and still is) relied on for the same teachings as Farnworth.

Conclusion

6. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will

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the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **John T. Haran** whose telephone number is **(571) 272-1217**. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th (8 - 5) and alternate Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richard Crispino can be reached on (571) 272-1226. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


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